Shelving of Mangalore and Karnal Rfinery projects

533. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Chairman Hindustan Petroleum Corporation which was contrary to the assurance given on the floor of the House regarding shelving of Mangalore Refinery;

(b) if so, whether the refinery projects at Mangalore and Karnal have been shelved due to a cut in the plan funds; and

(c) if so, what was the total cost of these projects and how far the funds have fallen short?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) In a routine press conference the Chairman of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited had referred to the absence of adequate provision for public sector outlay in the plan of his Company for the Mangalore Refinery.

The seventh plan is yet to be finalised. However, due to a constraint on public sector resources, other avenues for financing new refinery projects, like Mangalore and Karnal are being explored. These refineries are expected to cost about Rs. 1300 crores each.

Advertisement for LPG Dealership

534. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time the advertisement for LPG dealership at Dwarka and Khambhalia of Saurashtra region was issued on 21st April, 1984;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no progress has so far been made to make LPG available to the people of the above mentioned cities; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) The first advertisement for IOC's LPG dealerships at Dwarka and Khambhalia was issued on January 21, 1984. A letter of intent for the dealership at Dwarka was issued in March, 1985 and it is expected to be commissioned within two months. Selection of a dealer for the Khambhalia dealership is expected to be made soon by Oil Selection Board (West).

Shifting of Rajkot G.P.O.

535. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main office of the General Post Office at Rajkot has been shifted to a new high rented building; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) what is the monthly rent of that building; and

(c) the reasons for vacation of the previous premises; whether it is a fact that construction of a new building in the old place of G.P.O. Rajkot is being planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Rajkot Head Post Office has been shifted to a rented building which has a carpet area of 10,984 Sq. Ft. The building was renovated by the landlord at his own cost before occupation by the Post Office.

(b) Rs. 22,000 per month excluding taxes.

(c) The Post Office had to be shifted from the departmental building to enable its demolition and reconstruction. Construction of the new departmental building for Rajkot Head Post Office is in progress.

Converting Madras Telephone Exchange to Electronic System

536. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to modernise/instal the telephone exchange equipment in Madras city and suburban areas; and

(b) by when the telephone exchange at Madras city will be converted into a fully electronic system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes Sir, proposals have been initiated.

(b) The telephone exchanges in Madras city will be converted into fully electronic system progressively as and when the existing exchanges complete their useful life of 25 years, subject to availability of resources.

Waiting List of Telephones in Madras

537. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to reduce the number of waiting list for telephone connections in Madras City and its suburban areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of new exchanges/expansions planned for the next 5 years to clear the present waiting list are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Exchange	Expansions planned
1.	Harbour	5000 lines
2.	Adyar	2000 ,,
3.	Kellys	3000 ,,
4.	Flower Bazar Main	10,000 ,,
5.	Anabattur	500 ,,
6.	Avadi	500 ,,
7.	Chromepet	1500 ,,
8.	Mambalam	5000 ,,
9.	Kadambakkam	2000 ,,
10.	Nungambakkam Main	10000 ,,
11.	St. Thomas Mount	1200 ,,
	TOTAL :	40700

Shortage of Funds

538. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 21st June, 1985 captional "Oil Ministry Starved of Funds";

(b) if so, what is the extent of inadequacy of funds and what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how far it will affect the exploration and production of Petroleum in the country; and

(d) whether any arrangements to provide adequate funds are being made and if so, the details thereof?